CENTRAL FAX CENTER
APR 23 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a hairball or increasing fecal hair excretion in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising an effective amount of a polyol fatty acid polyester.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises a polyol that is a monosaccharide.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises a polyol that is an oligosaccharide.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is made from a polyol with at least 4 hydroxyl groups capable of being esterified.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is made from a polyol with at least 5 hydroxyl groups capable of being esterified.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is made from a polyol with at least 8 hydroxyl groups capable of being esterified.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester has a degree of esterification of at least about 70%.

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester has a degree of esterification of at least about 90%.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 8 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester has a degree of esterification of at least about 95%.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises fatty acid residues having from about 2 to about 30 carbon atoms.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises one or more residues of caprylic, capric, lauric, myristic, myristoleic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, eleostearic, arachidic, behenic, or erucic acid.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises sucrose esterified with one or more residues of oleic acid.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is a sucrose polyester wherein at least about 75% of the sucrose polyester, by weight, comprises octaester.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of cats and rabbits.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 further comprising administering a dietary fiber to the mammal.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 15 wherein the composition comprises the dietary fiber.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the composition is a food composition.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises a dietary fiber.

19. (Currently Amended) A veterinarian or pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of a polyol fatty acid polyester effective to increase fecal hair excretion or to treat a hairball in a mammal; wherein the amount of polyol fatty acid polyester provides from about 0.001 to about 400 mg/kg body weight of the mammal; and wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of cats and rabbits, and wherein said composition is a nutritionally balanced composition selected from the group consisting of kibble compositions, high-moisture compositions, and semi-dry compositions.

20. (Original) The composition according to Claim 19 further comprising a dietary fiber.

21. (Currently Amended) A pet food composition comprising at least about 0.05% polyol fatty acid polyester, by weight of the composition; wherein the composition provides from about 0.001 to about 400 mg of the polyol fatty acid ester per kg body weight of the mammal; and wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of cats and rabbits; and wherein said pet food composition is a nutritionally balanced composition selected from the group consisting of kibble compositions, high moisture compositions, and semi-dry compositions.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 21, wherein said composition is a kibble composition.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 22, wherein said kibble composition is a cat food composition.

24. (Previously Presented)The composition according to Claim 21, wherein said composition is a high moisture composition.

25. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 24, wherein said high moisture composition is a cat food composition.

26. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 21, wherein said composition is a semi-dry composition.

27. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 26, wherein said semi-dry composition is a cat food composition.